

A Cornerstone of Safety

Receiving the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's highest safety commendation represents an extraordinary sustained effort by the nearly 18,000 civil servants and contractor employees who work at Johnson Space Center. With health and safety as the cornerstone of our workforce, we can move even more boldly into the next millennium.



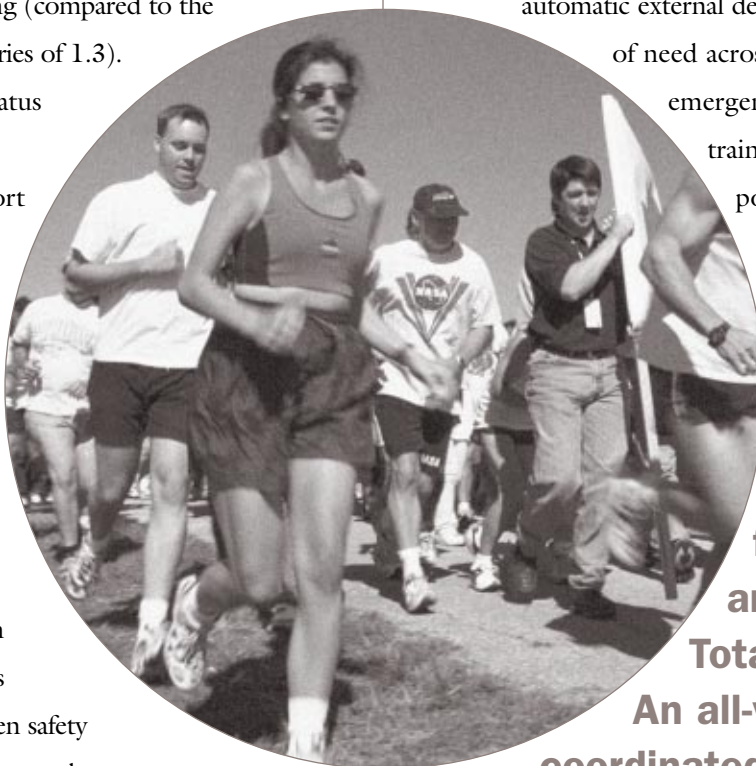
In 1999, Johnson Space Center became the first federal entity to earn both the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star work site status and ISO 9001 certification.

Only 500 companies in the country have earned the VPP Star work site designation, OSHA's most prestigious award. JSC is the largest and most complex facility in OSHA's region VI, yet still manages to have an impressive record, such as the Center's 0.2 lost-workday rating (compared to the national average for like industries of 1.3).

JSC's VPP Star work site status represents the participation, dedication, and sustained effort of every civil servant and contractor employee. An Executive Safety Committee now sets safety policy for the Center, and the JSC Safety Action Team involves employees directly in making improvements to the Center's safety and health program. A Center Director's hotline, line-management-driven safety committees, and an employee newsletter devoted to safety and health issues have improved safety communication and awareness. Every employee is involved in day-to-day safety activities, including walkthroughs, close-call reporting, hazard recognition and control, and workplace inspections. The concerted effort toward creating a risk-free workplace has resulted in fewer mishaps and injuries, as well as lower operating costs and higher productivity.

JSC's annual Safety and Total Health Day, a full-day stand-down across the Center, is the most important employee-managed event. The 1999 event featured more than 60 booths, guest speakers, a health run/walk, a blood drive, CPR training, seminars, and demonstrations.

To increase awareness, prevention, and response to heart disease and heart attacks, a campaign titled "Got the Squeeze, Call the 33333s" was begun in February. As part of the effort, automatic external defibrillators were placed in areas of need across the Center to provide JSC emergency responders and specially trained personnel with additional potential life-saving capabilities.



The enthusiasm and level of participation were unparalleled for this year's annual Safety and Total Health Day. An all-volunteer team coordinated various booths, speakers, entertainment, food events, and exhibits for a record number of employees and their family members.

Safety and Total Health Day

Employees concluded JSC's Safety and Total Health Day with a health run/walk, after having spent the day collecting health-enhancing information.